

Message Text

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DEPT PASS NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS FOR BRADY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EAID, CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION & RESEARCH,
ANKARA, NOVEMBER 10-12, 1975

1. COUNCIL MET IN INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS WITH STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM EACH REGIONAL MEMBER, WHICH HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN CASE. U.S. DELEGATION ABLY HEADED BY DR. EDWARD L. BRADY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM TEHRAN EMBASSY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ATTACHE ALBERT S. CHAPMAN, AND ANKARA EMBASSY CENTO LIAISON OFFICER ARTHUR REICH.

2. COUNCIL REVIEWED CENTO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR PROCEEDING YEAR AND APPROVED MAJOR DECISIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COORDINATING BOARD, WHICH MET THREE TIMES IN THIS PERIOD. IT EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON OPTIMUM USE OF WATER IN AGRICULTURE, ENDORSED THE BOARD'S VIEW THAT NUCLEAR POWER
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DEVELOPMENT SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED AS PART OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM,

AND SECONDED IDEA THAT PROPOSED EETING ON MINIMIZATION OF EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS WAS OF SUCH SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE THAT CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OUGHT TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IT IN ITS CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

3. (A) COUNCIL APPROVED CONTINUING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON CEREALS RE THEIR EFFECT ON TYPES C FLAT BREAT TRADITIONALLY BAKED WITHIN CENTO REGION. (B) IT ALSO APPROVED CONTINUING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON PLANTS INDIGENOUS TO CENTO REGION WHICH HAVE PHARMACOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES. (C) PROGRESS ON A NEW COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATION OF MYCOTOXINS OCCURRING IN WHEAT, MILK, AND FIGS WAS DISCUSSED. THIS IS AN EXTENSION OF WORK DONE ALREADY ON ONE MYCOTOXIN KNOWN AS AFLATOXIN, A MOULD THAT HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED THE VALUE OF LOCAL PISTACHIO CROPS. (D) ANOTHER NEW COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITY PERTAINS TO PARASITIC DISEASES PREVALENT IN THE THREE REGIONAL COUNTRIES. SPECIFICALLY, THIS HAS THE GOAL OF DEVELOPING RELIABLE PROCEDURES FOR THE CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF HYDATID CYST AND VISCERAL LARVAE MIGRANS AS WELL AS SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS. (E) THE COUNCIL REGRETTED THAT LACK OF FUNDS WOULD DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION OF LOCALLY PRODUCED CHICKPEAS, PHASEOLUS BEANS, LENTILS, AND VICIA FABIA.

4. COUNCIL APPROVED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MULTILATERAL SCIENTIFIC FUND (MSF) FOR YEAR 1974/75 AND, WHILE APPROVING ALLOCATIONS FOR 1975/76 YEAR AS APPROPRIATE TO PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDED THAT EXPENDITURE FOR VISITS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SHOULD IN FUTURE BE INCREASED TO ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. COUNCIL DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF OPERATING MSF ON BASIS OF DOLLARS RATHER THAN POUNDS STERLING TO MINIMIZE EROSION OF ITS VALUE BUT FAILED TO AGREE ON A RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT DUE TO OBJECTIONS OF U.K. DELEGATE. (IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE APRIL 1975 DECISION TO INCREASE THE MSF FROM POUNDS 27,000 TO POUNDS 32,000 TO OFFSET INCREASED COSTS AND ALTERATIONS IN EXCHANGE RATES HAD ONLY RAISED THE DOLLAR EQUIVALENT FROM 65,000 TO 67,000, RATHER THAN THE 77,000 ANTICIPATED.) COUNCIL STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SHOULD AGREE TO ANOTHER INCREASE IN MSF CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESTORE THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM TO ITS 1974/75

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LEVEL. US DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT USG WAS CONSIDERING USING A PORTION OF DOLLARS 50,000 US SPARE PARTS FUND AS SUPPLEMENT TO MSF PROJECTS, MAKING POSSIBLE SOME PURCHASE OF US EQUIPMENT. COUNCIL ALSO PUT ITS BLESSING ON ANOTHER IDEA TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF SUCCESSFUL CENTO SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS, I.E., SEEKING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER CENTO SOURCES (E.G., CONFERENCE FUND) AND EVEN OUTSIDE SUPPORT SUCH AS VARIOUS U.N. FUNDS.

5. THE ANOMOLOUS SITUATION OF THE CENTO SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY POSITION, WHICH IS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED AND STAFFED BY THE U.K., BUT HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE CENTO BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, WAS DISCUSSED. RECTIFICATION OF THIS OVERSIGHT IS URGENTLY NEEDED, AS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO MOVING THE OFFICE OF THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY FROM TEHRAN TO ANKARA AND THE TERM OF THE PRESENT SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY WILL BE FINISHED IN ABOUT NINE MONTHS. NOT ONLY DOES THIS AFFECT RECRUITMENT OF A REPLACEMENT, BUT CHANGES IN LOCALE AND ORGANIZATION COULD HAVE A PROFOUND AND QUITE POSSIBLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM WITHIN THE CENTO STRUCTURE.

6. COUNCIL COMMENDED THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY ON THE CONTENT, FORMAT, AND DESIGN OF THE REPORTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM. IT WAS ALSO THE INFORMAL CONSENSUS OF THE DELEGATES THAT PROCEDURES INSTITUTED BY THE BOARD WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE ACHIEVED PROPER SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES AND HAVE RESULTED IN A REMARKABLY PRODUCTIVE PROGRAM CONSIDERING THE SEVERE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH IT OPERATES.

7. THE DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WAS FIXED FOR NOV. 15-17, 1976. BY ROTATION IRAN WILL HOST THIS MEETING, QUITE POSSIBLY IN ISFAHAN.

8. CENTO SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR 1975/76 BEING ARRANGED: (A) PANEL ON REGIONAL PROBLEMS OF EDIBLE FATS AND OILS, LAHORE, DECEMBER 9-11, 1975; (B) PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF LIQUID EFFLUENTS, KARACHI, JANUARY 27-29, 1976; (C) PROGRAM MEETING ON PLANT PRODUCTION UNDER SALINE CONDITIONS, ADANA, MAY 10-12, 1976; (D) WHEAT PESTS PROGRAM MEETING, ANKARA, JUNE 1-3, 1976; (E) PANEL ON SOLAR ENERGY, TEHRAN, PROBABLY OCTOBER, 1976.

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9. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) SEEK WELL QUALIFIED EXPERT FROM US TO SEND TO EACH OF THESE MEETINGS WITH EXCEPTION OF (D). US EXPERTS FROM ROCKEFELLER-SUPPORTED WHEAT IMPROVEMENT CENTER IN ANKARA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AVAILABLE FOR IT. (2) REQUEST REPRESENTATIVES OF APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES CONVENE TO FORMULATE A DETAILED AGENDA FOR A PANEL ON MINIMIZATION OF EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS TO BE PROPOSED TO THE CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR INCLUSION IN THE US CONFERENCE PROGRAM. PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO ATTRACT FIRST RATE PARTICIPATION FROM RELATED DISCIPLINES WHILE AT SAME TIME ORGANIZED TO PRODUCE PRACTICAL RESULTS OF IMMEDIATE BENEFIT WITHIN CENTO REGION. EARTHQUAKE STUDY GROUP AT NBS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOCAL POINT FOR THIS PROJECT.

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